

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

27. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) A countertop mounting base and bracket for releasably securing a paper product dispenser attached to the base comprising:

- a) a base having an upper surface and a sidewall extending downwardly therefrom to define a hollow cavity and also define a stepped locking recess having an upper portion with a first recess width and a lower portion with a second recess width, where the upper locking recess width is smaller than the lower locking recess width, the base being further provided with a plurality of locking projections disposed in the hollow cavity having locking shoulders thereon each of which has a characteristic locking shoulder width;
- a) a mounting bracket provided with means for securing it to the countertop and a raised central locking surface provided with a moveable tongue adapted to flex with respect to the locking surface from a locking position to a release position, the tongue being provided with a stepped outer profile defining an outer width which is less than or equal to the upper recess width of the base and a locking width which is greater than the upper recess width of the base, the locking surface of the mounting bracket being further provided with a plurality of locking slots with open portions having widths at least as great as the corresponding characteristic widths of locking shoulders of the locking projections of the base and elongated narrow portions having widths smaller than corresponding characteristic widths of locking shoulders of locking projections of the base; and
- b) the base and mounting bracket being configured such that the locking projections of the base may be inserted into the open portions of the locking slots and the base slid into the locking position with the bracket wherein the shoulders of the locking projections of the base are secured from vertical translation away from the locking position by the elongated narrow portions of the locking slots of the raised central

locking surface of the mounting bracket and the base is prevented from horizontal translation away from the locking position by the locking width of the tongue until the tongue is flexed to its release position.

- 28. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 27, further comprising a post attached to the base for mounting a napkin dispenser.
- 29. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 28, used for mounting a gravity feed napkin dispenser.
- 30. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 27, wherein the mounting bracket is stamped from sheet metal.
- 31. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 27, wherein the base is cast from metal.
- 32. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 27, wherein the tongue requires a force of from about 2 to about 10 pounds to move it from the locking position to the release position.
- 33. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 32, wherein the tongue requires a force of from about 4 to about 6 pounds to move it from the locking position to the release position.
- 34. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 27, further comprising biasing means to urge the base and bracket into engagement with each other in the locking position.
- 35. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 34, wherein the biasing means are upperwardly raised portions defined on the bracket and downwardly projecting ridges on the base located within the hollow cavity thereof.

36. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 27, wherein the upper portion of the stepped locking recess of the base has a generally L-shaped profile.
37. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 36, wherein the lower portion of the stepped locking recess of the base has a generally L-shaped profile.
38. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 27, wherein the stepped outer profile of the tongue is generally L-shaped.
39. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 38, wherein the outer edge of the tongue is arcuate in shape.
40. ~~(New)~~ (Currently Amended) A countertop mounting base and bracket for releasably securing a paper product dispenser attached to the base comprising:
- a) a base having an upper surface and a sidewall extending downwardly therefrom to define a hollow cavity and also define a locking recess;
  - b) a mounting bracket provided with means for securing it to the countertop and a ~~raised central locking surface provided with a~~ moveable tongue adapted to flex with respect to the locking surface from a locking position to a release position;
- wherein at least one of the base and bracket is provided with a locking projection and at least one of the base and bracket is provided with a locking slot configured to cooperate with the locking projection to releasably secure the base to the bracket; and
- c) the base and mounting bracket further being configured such that the locking projection may be inserted into the locking slot and the base slid into a locking

position with the bracket wherein a shoulder of the locking projection is secured from vertical translation away from the locking position by an elongated narrow portion of the locking slot and the base is prevented from horizontal translation away from the locking position until the tongue is flexed to its release position.

- | 41. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 40, used for mounting a gravity feed napkin dispenser.
- | 42. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 40, wherein the mounting bracket is stamped from sheet metal.
- | 43. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 40, wherein the base is cast from metal.
- | 44. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 40, wherein the tongue requires a force of from about 2 to about 10 pounds to move it from the locking position to the release position.
- | 45. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 44, wherein the tongue requires a force of from about 4 to about 6 pounds to move it from the locking position to the release position.
- | 46. ~~(New)~~ (Previously Presented) The countertop mounting base and bracket according to Claim 40, further comprising biasing means to urge the base and bracket into engagement with each other in the locking position.